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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digest From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 13

June 6, 1942

HAWAII (May 21).--Director, as Comptroller of Imports, office Military Governor, concerned with amount of food and feed needed for shipment from mainland in June, had meetings with dealers regarding price fixing, need for maintaining supplies.

Extension held 19 Americanization meetings, attendance 807, for people of Japanese descent. Response May 1-15:-- Blood donors, 73; war bonds purchased, \$4,600; volunteer labor corps turned out 2 Sundays with a total of 223 man days.

Cooperating closely with pineapple and sugar plantations on marketing, future production. Emphasis on efficient marketing and crop estimating for greater self-sufficiency.

Cooperating with camouflage division of U. S. Engineers office to increase effectiveness of camouflage on Oahu. Assistance given home gardeners in Honolulu.

Continued to make plans for feed rationing necessitated by 30% reduction in imported feed, and to allocate space for meat imported. Assisted Army officers in contacting growers and picking out sows and boars for shipping alive to posts in line islands to provide fresh meat for Army forces.

County agents assisted in plans for regulated marketing of perishables; survey of unemployed in certain sections for use as farm help; assistance given Army and Navy groups desiring to produce their own vegetables; constant requests for aid in disease and insect control answered; encouragement given to rejuvenation of backyard orchards through proper pruning and grafting; assistance given in obtaining and using substitutes and second-hand parts for farm machinery.

Home demonstration agents have prepared and demonstrated first-aid kits in club meetings and encouraged members to prepare kits for their own use; women taught how to make up practical evacuation food kits containing greatest possible food value in smallest possible containers; educational program on effects of poisonous gases and methods of preventing damage being conducted; information given on use in daily diet of numerous greens formerly discarded as useless; conservation of wild fruits and berries being encouraged; importance of efficient buying of foods stressed.

ILLINOIS (May 23).--387 county farm and home advisers and county farm and home bureau presidents representing 99 counties met at Urbana, May 18. Major emphasis given Plans for Preventing Further Inflation. Other topics discussed: Needs for Wartime Food Preservation; Harvesting and Storing Soybeans; Farm Fire and Accident Prevention. Handbook - A Wartime Educational Program for Agriculture in Illinois - distributed for use by township chairmen and county committeemen.

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25 members of State staff who will serve as district supervisors in carrying out program have completed plans for contacting farm and home advisers and farm and home bureau boards in their districts.

Proposed organization: County Agricultural Planning Committee each county composed 8 to 15 farm men and women, 1 representative each USDA agency active in county, 2 representatives vocational agriculture. County farm adviser as chairman, and county home adviser, cochairman. This committee responsible for adapting to county needs and executing in county wartime educational program for agriculture and home economics.

Local organization will consist of chairman and cochairman for each township, and leader and coleader for each school district (4 square miles). Township chairmen responsible for seeing that programs as adapted by County Agricultural Planning Committee are carried out in township. School district leaders responsible for seeing that programs for school district meetings are carried out and personal contacts made.

MINNESOTA (May 29).--All agents and creamery and milk company managers furnished with digested review of requirements for selling dried skim milk to FSCC, and other special considerations in producing and selling this product. Folder - Produce Quality Milk - distributed widely in milk-diversion counties.

Survey machinery dealers for determination as to results machinery repair campaign shows increase in orders for parts amounting to 10-25 percent, and stimulation of service work, especially on tractors.

Conducted 7 poultry disease and management schools for veterinarians. More than third practicing veterinarians in State attended, spending full day studying marketing and management aspects of poultry work. They suggested similar sessions covering cattle, sheep, horses.

In scrap-collection campaign, 4-H boys in Martin County, covered all county's farms in 2 days; brought in more than 400,000 pounds scrap iron and rubber. Scrap sold to dealers and proceeds turned over to treasurers of the 22 Martin County 4-H Clubs. Money used to purchase, on behalf of clubs, \$1,300 worth of war bonds. Bonds presented to clubs at county-wide rally.

MONTANA (June 1).--Neighborhood Leadership Plan for reaching rural people, and Rural Fire Control Program initiated at 8 district meetings. Leadership plan contemplates man and woman leader, in every neighborhood, of 10 to 15 farm families. Fire-control meetings will be held in every community.

Reports on 1943 production estimates, including progress checks on 1942 goals, received from all counties and now being assembled into type farming area reports preparatory to State summary.

Maintaining source of reliable alfalfa seed to insure forage for maximum livestock numbers received added assurance through contacts made in 12 principal producing counties. Operators in all sections of Nation depend on this source of seed.

Method to maintain monthly check on progress in reaching milk-production goals initiated. Figures submitted by dairy-products manufacturers to State Dairy Division are tabulated by zones and released to counties for appropriate follow-up.

Information on grain-storage situation, including review of supplies and storage space, bin construction, and control of insects, released to agents to reinforce local educational campaigns.

In 28 counties 170 leaders, representing 412 organizations, trained for leadership in food preservation.

Plans under way for carrying informational phases of price-control program to counties and communities.

NEVADA (May 1).--Neighborhood-leader project set up under which 90 percent of farms in State can be reached within 24 hours. Each county divided into communities; communities divided into neighborhoods of from 5 to 10 farms each. In each neighborhood 2 farmers or their wives serve as neighborhood leaders. About 60 percent of leaders, men; 40 percent, women.

Director has given much time to agricultural aspects of problem of moving Japanese evacuees from California.

Rural fire-control boards now organized in most counties, and survey of fire hazards on farms and in farm homes instituted. 4-H boys and girls assisting in survey. Now ready to take steps on a community basis to combat any fires that break out.

County reports indicate all farm and ranch families expanding their garden areas and planning to store surpluses.

Agents' activities during April included: Attendance meetings County USDA War Boards, Victory Garden Committees, nutrition councils; cooperation U. S. Employment Service in surveying, finding, and placing farm labor; conferences in connection establishment evacuated Japanese in Nevada rural areas; organization and operation training school in farm-machinery repair, and training school for teaching nonfarm labor how to handle certain farm problems; helping with movement scrap iron from farms to steel mills; taking care of applications for priorities for farm machinery and arranging for obtaining it; assisting in fire prevention and control plans. Members of State staff met with many groups concerned with wartime activities in agriculture in various counties and assisted with their problems. Range and pasture program, wartime beef production taken up at meetings with cattlemen's groups.

New 4-H Victory Project set up under which each member may count his wartime activities. Special Victory Record Book provided in which member may record war work. High quality of livestock exhibited at Junior Livestock Show by 4-H members revealed part these clubs are taking in helping ranchers meet State lend-lease food goals.

PENNSYLVANIA (June 1).--County workers now active in expanding leadership program on neighborhood basis, not only as emergency measure but also as post-war need.

Reduced availability molasses and phosphoric acid for grass silage has turned attention of farmers to possible substitute forages for silage purposes. Agents furnishing information; special mimeograph issued for distribution.

Special attention being given propagation superior strains of red clover for seed production. Harvesting locally grown ryegrass seed recommended. Use of ryegrass supplemented with various legumes will be demonstrated in more than 300 instances throughout State.

Assistance given on turfing of airports, and stabilization of cut banks on number important highways.

Reducing soil losses through method and result demonstrations. More than 1,000 farms, representing every county, laid out as result demonstrations.

In cooperation AAA, 11 sectional meetings on soybean production attended by approximately 2,000 AAA committeemen. Production also emphasized through newspaper and radio publicity, variety demonstrations, etc.

TENNESSEE (June 1).--County farm and home agents, specialists, and administrators, 15,000 volunteer Community Victory Committeemen, and all other agencies interested in rural welfare mobilized in May for Statewide educational drive to acquaint farm families with 7-point program to control cost of living.

Following a five-State regional meeting in Asheville, N. C., a staff meeting was held in Knoxville to discuss program, needed information materials, and procedure for reaching all farm families promptly. Meeting of representatives of all State and Federal agencies working with rural people to acquaint them with program was held in Nashville. District meetings of all interested agencies held and county meetings now in progress.

Eight teams of speakers, 2 to each of the 4 extension districts, attend each county meeting to explain program and responsibilities of Victory Committeemen, so that they may carry information to their neighbors at community and neighborhood meetings which will follow county meetings.

Voluntary Community Victory Committeemen, 3 to 5 leading farmers and farm women in each of 2,400 organized communities in the 95 counties of State, selected earlier in year. To each has been mailed certificate of appointment as a Victory Committeeman for "mobilization of farm families for cooperation in War Emergency Programs for the freedom of humanity and civilization."

Information material includes a two-color poster, How Farm Families Can Help Win the War and Control the Cost of Living, and leaflet with the same title; poster to be placed in all places where rural people gather, and leaflet to be distributed to farm families; Farm Family Check Sheet showing how families expect to cooperate by buying less, taking care of what they have, saving scrap,

buying bonds, paying debts, paying cash, and meeting food-production goals; bulletin on Cooking and Canning With Less Sugar and Substitutes; news stories to all papers weekly; special radio programs; material for daily farm-flash programs to 10 stations to cover all sections of State; use by committeemen of materials prepared by USDA and OPA.

TEXAS (June 1).--Following staff conference at college, 12 district conferences and meetings each county held for organization County Agricultural Victory Councils; 236 counties have completed organization.

Ways and means of executing desired attack upon dangers of inflation discussed at conference of representatives Federal agencies, farm organizations, and educational institutions. Series of sectional conferences on this subject, worked out with State USDA War Board, to be held in June. Two publications prepared on subject by staff members: (1) series of questions and answers on cause and consequences of inflation, for transmission to community and neighborhood Victory leaders; (2) Inflation Comes Back to the Farm, analyzing the problem in detail, available for more limited distribution.

Agents assisted committees of peanut growers in threshers and pickers, bags, and warehouse space. Inspection made of available warehouse space, and movement started to locate threshers and arrange for their financing and operation.

District dairy days held throughout State, each program including dairy cattle judging contest in which all persons attending took part. Feeding and management problems discussed, production more milk and milk products in food for freedom program emphasized.

Satisfactory control of insects in Victory Gardens reported as result subdistrict meetings held by entomologist.

To promote home morale, series of community discussions emphasized 5-point program - planning together, working together, playing together, worshiping together, mental health in current crisis.

Reports of 129 counties show 4-H Club boys have collected 3,478,534 pounds scrap iron; 190,804 pounds paper; 57,826 pounds aluminum; and bought \$39,456.04 worth of war bonds and stamps. They have fed 4,178 beef calves, 10,552 swine, and 4,477 sheep. They planted 6,039 gardens, and have 73,230 hens and 689,589 baby chicks.

